(d) the reasons for this sudden development and the effects of this huge spending on the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The total expenditure provisions of Rs. 7,50,884 crore in Budget Estimates (BE) 2008-09 has been revised to Rs. 9,00,953 crore in the Revised Estimates (RE) 2008-09 showing an increase of Rs. 1,50,069 crore. This additionality has been approved through the Supplementary Demands for Grants 2008-09. The actual expenditure booked during the period October, 2008 to December, 2008 and the resultant fiscal deficit is as follows:—

Period	Progressive expenditure	Fiscal Deficit
At the end of October, 2008	408395	117070
At the end of November, 2008	494124	176510
At the end of December, 2008	597216	218262

(c) and (d) The fiscal deficit estimated at Rs. 1,33,287 crore at 2.5% of GDP in BE 2008-09 is projected to increase of Rs. 3,26,515 crore at 6.0% of GDP in RE 2008-09. Post budget developments on the international front, including a sudden upward spiral in commodity prices, especially, mineral oils, edible oils, and ores, and the outbreak of an unprecedented global financial crises, resulted in Government having to take several fiscal, monetary and administrative measures to reduce the impact of inflationary pressures and help support domestic demand in the economy. These measures constitute a substantial counter-cyclical stimulus which is expected to sustain the economic growth momentum in 2009-10.

Operation of Credit Rating Agencies

1070. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of credit rating agencies operating in India, presently;

(b) salient obligations entailed to licenses granted to these agencies, including accountability for failure to accord ratings on realistic basis;

(c) the details of the authorities who oversee the conduct of the rating agencies, indicating the relevant rules/guidelines governing their conduct;

(d) instances, if any, of unrealistic ratings of companies/financial instruments conferred by the rating agencies since their advent in India;

(e) the actions taken in respective cases;

(f) the details of ratings conferred, if any, on Satyam Computer Services Ltd. and/or its scripts; and

(g) the name of the agency(ies)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Presently, the following five Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered credit rating agencies (CRAs) are operating in India:—

1. CRISIL Ltd.
2. Fitch Ratings India Private Ltd. (FICH)
3. Investment information and Credit Rating Agency (ICRA)
4. Credit Analysis and Research Ltd. (CARE)
5. Brickwork Ratings India Private Ltd. (Brickwork)

(b) SEBI registers CRAs subject to the condition that they comply with the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992, the SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999, including the Code of Conduct prescribed in the Regulations and also the guidelines, directives, circulars and instructions issued by SEBI from time to time on the subject matter of credit rating. These *inter-alia* require a CRA to maintain books of accounts and records for a minimum period of five years, maintain confidentiality of information with respect to their clients, frame appropriate internal procedures and policies, ensure appropriate disclosure on rating process, disclose rating definitions and rationale, monitor the ratings assigned and ensure good corporate policies and governance standards.

(c) SEBI regulates activities of the CRAs in the ratings of instruments categorized as securities in Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. Reserve Bank of India undertakes an accreditation process for the limited purpose of using ratings for assigning risk weights within the framework of Basel II Accord.

(d) and (e) Credit Rating is an independent professional opinion given by the credit rating agency regarding securities. Ratings change in tune with changes in the economy, the concerned sector and fundamentals of the company among others. CRAs are obliged to monitor such changes and revise their ratings. Such rating migrations are normal and do not call for any action from the regulators.

(f) and (g) As per information submitted by the five rating agencies *viz.* CRISIL, CARE, ICRA, FITCH and Brickwork, the rating agencies have confirmed that they have not conferred any ratings on Satyam Computer Services Ltd. and/or its scrip.

Investigations into Mutual Funds

1071. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of Satyam Computer scam that has recently blown up, Government proposes to investigate the working of Mutual Funds like Tata Tax Advantage started as a New Fund Offering in early 2006, to unearth irregularities indulged into by managements at the cost of small investors who invested in such mutual funds for tax concessions under Income Tax Act, 1961;